

**GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
ABSTRACT**

Minorities Welfare Department – Revival of Scheme for providing financial assistance for conducting tour programme for Christian Pilgrims to visit Holy Land of Jerusalem and other Biblical places – Orders – Issued.

MINORITIES WELFARE (SDM) DEPARTMENT

G.O.MS.No. 78

**Dated:02nd June, 2015
Read the following:**

1. G.O.Ms.No.99, Minorities Welfare (SDM) Department, dt.19.10.2013.
2. From the Managing Director, A.P. State Christian (Minorities) Finance Corporation, Hyderabad, Lr.No.1065/C2/APSCMFC /High Tea Programme Assurances/2014, dt.30.12.2014.
3. Govt. Memo.No.6393/SDM/A1/2016, Dt.06.02.2015.
4. From the Managing Director, A.P. State Christian (Minorities) Finance Corporation, Hyderabad, Lr.No.1752/C2/ APSCMFC/ Holy land of Jerusalem/2015, dt.11.03.2015.

In the G.O. 1st read above, guidelines were issued for the scheme of providing financial assistance for conducting tour programme for Christian Pilgrims to visit Holy Land of Jerusalem and other Biblical places.

2. In the letter 2nd read above, the Managing Director, A.P. State Christian (Minorities) Finance Corporation, Hyderabad has requested the Government for reviving the Scheme of Christian Pilgrimage to Holy of Land of Jerusalem.

3. In the Memo 3rd read above, the Managing Director, A.P. State Christian (Minorities) Finance Corporation, Hyderabad has been requested to furnish the remarks on "extending financial assistance to religious activities is probably against the tenets / spirits of the Constitution" duly taking legal advice in the matter.

4. In the letter 4th read above, the Managing Director, A.P State Christian (Minorities) Finance Corporation, Hyderabad while quoting the judgement of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in Civil Appellate Jurisdiction in Writ Petition (Civil) No.1 of 2007 of Prafull Goradia Vs. Union of India has stated that the extending financial assistance to religious activities is not against the tenets / spirit of the Constitution and Government spending small part of any tax collected for providing some conveniences or facilities or concessions to any religious denominations is not violation of Article 27 of the Indian Constitution.

5. Government after careful examination of the matter, hereby accord permission to the Managing Director, A.P. State Christian (Minorities) Finance Corporation, Hyderabad for revival of the Scheme for providing financial assistance for conducting tour programme for Christian Pilgrims to visit the Holy Land of Jerusalem and other Biblical places and implement the scheme duly following the guidelines issued in G.O. 1st read above.

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6. The Managing Director, A.P. State Christian (Minorities) Finance Corporation, Hyderabad shall take necessary action accordingly.

7. This order issues with the concurrence of Finance Department vide their U.O.Note No.918/67/A1/EBS-III/15, Dt.27.03.2015.

(BY ORDER AND IN THE NAME OF THE GOVERNOR OF ANDHRA PRADESH)

**SHAIK MOHAMMED IQBAL
SPECIAL SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT (FAC)**

To
The Managing Director, A.P. State Christian
(Minorities) Finance Corporation, Hyderabad.
All the District Collectors in the State.

Copy to:

The Commissioner, Minorities Welfare, Hyderabad.
All the DMWOs / EDs in the State.
The General Administration (Cabinet) Department
The Finance (EBS.III) Department.
The P.S. to Secretary to Chief Minister.
The P.S. to Chief Secretary.
The OSD to Hon'ble Minister for Minorities Welfare.
The P.S. to Spl. Secretary to Govt., Minorities Welfare Department.
sc/sf.

// FORWARDED :: BY ORDER //

SECTION OFFICER